

# Zechariah 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

## Analysis

**Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain**—Following the famous 'not by might nor by power' declaration (v. 6), God addresses the obstacles facing temple-builder Zerubbabel. The *har haggādōl* (הר הגדול, 'great mountain') symbolizes massive opposition—political resistance from Samaritan adversaries (Ezra 4), economic hardship, discouragement, and the seemingly impossible task of completing the temple with meager resources. God mocks the mountain: *mī-'attāh* (מי-אתה, 'who are you?')—what are you compared to My Spirit?

**Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain**—*Lemīshōr* (למישור, 'into level ground') promises divinely-flattened terrain. What human strength couldn't budge, God's Spirit levels effortlessly. **And he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it**—*Vehōtsī et-hā'eben hārōshāh* (וְהִזְמִין אֶת-בָּן הַרֹּשֶׁה) ('and he shall bring out the top/capstone'). The 'eben rōshāh is the final, crowning stone completing the building. Zerubbabel who laid the foundation (v. 9) will place the capstone. The shouting *chēn chēn lāh* (חֵן חֵן לָה, 'Grace! Grace to it!') celebrates that grace alone accomplished what seemed impossible. This anticipates Christ the cornerstone rejected by builders yet chosen by God (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:6-7).

## Historical Context

---

Temple work had been halted for 16 years (536-520 BC) due to opposition documented in Ezra 4:1-5, 24. The obstacles seemed insurmountable. Zerubbabel faced enemy accusations to Persian authorities, lack of resources, popular discouragement, and skeptics who despised the modest scale ('day of small things,' v. 10). Yet God promised: the mountain will become a plain, and Zerubbabel will finish what he started. The temple was completed in 516 BC (Ezra 6:15), four years after this prophecy.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. What 'great mountains' in your life seem immovable apart from God's Spirit?
2. How does the shouting of 'Grace, grace!' reframe obstacles from achievements earned to gifts received?
3. Why is it significant that the same person (Zerubbabel) lays the foundation and places the capstone?

## Interlinear Text

---

מִזְרָבְךָ לִפְנֵי	הַגָּדוֹ וְלֹא	בָּרָא שָׁמָן	אַתָּה בָּן אֱלֹהִים	לְמִישָׁךְ וְלֹא	זֶרְעָבָל
H4310	H859	H2022	H1419	H6440	H2216
mountain	Who art thou O great	before	Zerubbabel		
thou shalt become a plain	and he shall bring forth				
H4334	H3318	H853	H68	H7222	
thereof with shoutings	crying Grace	crying Grace			
H8663	H2580	H2580	H0		

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Jeremiah 51:25** (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

**Micah 4:1** (Parallel theme): But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

**Zechariah 4:9** (Parallel theme): The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

**Isaiah 41:15** (Parallel theme): Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

**Acts 4:11** (Parallel theme): This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

**Psalms 118:22** (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

**Psalms 114:4** (Parallel theme): The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

**1 Peter 2:7** (Parallel theme): Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)